



## FY2014-2015 Spay Neuter No Cost Program

Project #  
15-045

County: **Wicomico**

Number of Cats Spayed: 122  
Number of Cats Neutered: 76

Number of Dogs Spayed: 63  
Number of Dogs Neutered: 51

Amount Received: \$31,810.00

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): 0

### Project Synopsis:

This project provided transportation and no-cost surgeries to 312 companion animals to low-income residents in Wicomico County.



### Project Description:

Humane Society of Wicomico County was established in 1969 to make a difference in the lives of animals in Wicomico County. We have evolved into a full-service shelter that provides adoptions, spay-neuter clinic, animal control division, and events to inform the public on proper care of animals. We provide this service with approximately 20 employees and many volunteers. Our volunteer base greatly increases during the Salisbury University school sessions with many of their civic groups supporting our cause. We intake approximately 800-900 animals per quarter. Our clinic operates on a part-time basis with two contract veterinarians performing approximately 300-400 surgeries per quarter.

This project was begun on December 1, 2014 and was completed by December, 2015. It provided transportation and no-cost surgeries (including rabies vaccinations if needed) to any low-income resident in Wicomico County but especially targeted low-income pet owners in the north side of Salisbury, southwest side of Delmar, the Town of Sharptown, and the Town of Pittsville. This project provided no-cost spay/neuter surgeries to 312 companion animals, meeting its proposed target number.

### Summary of Approach:

We have identified neighborhood tracts where the population base has low-income and is supplemented by financial assistance. Our intent was to provide no-cost spay/neuter to those who provide written documentation of financial income assistance and who were already attempting to be responsible pet owners and did not have the revenue to spay/neuter their animals. We utilized our existing clinic and added appointments to provide at least six cat and two dog discounts per week for the last three quarters of fiscal year 2014-2015.



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM**



We will aggressively advertised this campaign utilizing technology such as websites, e-mail blasts, social media and printed materials. Funds were used to offset the normal charges for the surgeries to include free rabies vaccines and to employ a part-time employee for the increased surgeries. This person performed general assistance in the surgical room, clerical work scheduling the appointments, and transportation of animals when needed.

**Accomplishments:**

312 dogs and cats spayed and neutered, the target number of animals we proposed. We also increased Public outreach and understanding of reproduction of unwanted strays

**Lessons Learned:**

Project was harder to complete due to lack of participation from public. We increased outreach efforts to increase participation with social media, press releases, and our website advertizing.

The original completion date was June 2015. However more time to reach the public and achieve our target was required, so we requested an additional 6 month extension.

One challenge was that some people wanted to keep their animals intact for breeding as they think puppies and kittens are “cute” and some for monetary reasons just wanted them to have one litter. We needed to explain the shelters have lots of animals they can adopt.

**Attachments:**

none

**For More Information Contact:**

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